

thought about all I want us to achieve by the time they have children of their own.

That's my proof that the idea of America endures. That's my evidence that our brave endeavor on this Earth continues. And every single day I walk into the Oval Office, and for all the days of my life, I will always remember that in no other nation on Earth could my story be possible, could your stories be possible. That is something I celebrate. That is something that drives every decision I make.

So what I ask of you, graduates, as you walk out of here today is this: Pursue success. Do not falter. When you make it, pull somebody else up. Preserve our dream. Remember your life is richer when people around you have a shot at opportunity as well. Strive to widen that circle of possibility. Strive to forge that big,

generous, optimistic vision of America that we inherited. Strive to carry that dream forward to future generations.

Thank you. Congratulations. May God bless you. May God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:17 p.m. at the James L. Knight International Center. In his remarks, he referred to Hafeeza Rahman, president, Student Government Association, Miami Dade College North Campus; Eduardo J. Padron, president, Miami Dade College; Jose A. Vicente, president, Miami Dade College North Campus and Miami Dade College West; Mayor Walter Maddox of Tuscaloosa, AL; and Sarah Onyango Obama, stepmother of the President's father.

The President's Weekly Address

April 30, 2011

After the worst recession since the Great Depression, our economy is growing again, and we've gained almost 2 million private sector jobs over the last 13 months. But I also know that a lot of folks aren't feeling as positive as some of those statistics might suggest. It's still too hard to find a job. And even if you have a job, chances are, you're having a tougher time paying the rising costs of everything from groceries to gas. In some places, gas is now more than four bucks a gallon, meaning that you could be paying upwards of 50 or 60 dollars to fill up your tank.

Of course, while rising gas prices mean real pain for our families at the pump, they also mean bigger profits for oil companies. This week, the largest oil companies announced that they'd made more than \$25 billion in the first few months of 2011, up about 30 percent from last year.

Now, I don't have any problem with any company or industry being rewarded for their success. The incentive of healthy profits is what fuels entrepreneurialism and helps drive our economy forward. But I do have a problem with unwarranted taxpayer subsidies that we've been handing out to oil and gas companies to

the tune of \$4 billion a year. When oil companies are making huge profits already and you're struggling at the pump and we're scouring the Federal budget for spending we can afford to do without, these tax giveaways aren't right, they aren't smart, and we need to end them.

That's why earlier this week, I renewed my call to Congress to stop subsidizing the oil and gas industries. Understand, I'm not opposed to producing oil. I believe that if we're serious about meeting our energy challenge, we need to operate on all cylinders, and that means pursuing a broad range of energy policies, including safe and responsible oil production here at home. In fact, last year, America's oil production reached its highest level since 2003.

But I also believe that instead of subsidizing yesterday's energy, we should invest in tomorrow's. And that's what we've been doing. Already, we've seen how the investments we're making in clean energy can lead to new jobs and new businesses. I've seen some of them myself: small businesses that are making the most of solar and wind power and energy-efficient technologies, big companies that are making fuel-efficient cars and trucks part of their vehicle fleets. And to promote these

kinds of vehicles, we implemented historic new fuel economy standards, which could save you as much as \$3,000 at the pump.

Now, I know that in this tough fiscal environment, it's tempting for some in Washington to want to cut our investments in clean energy. And I absolutely agree that the only way we'll be able to afford the things we need is if we cut the things we don't and live within our means. But I refuse to cut things like clean energy that will help America win the future by growing our economy and creating good-paying jobs, that will help make America more secure, and that will help clean up

our planet in the process. An investment in clean energy today is an investment in a better tomorrow, and I think that's an investment worth making.

Thanks for listening, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 6:45 p.m. on April 28 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on April 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 29, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 30.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner April 30, 2011

All right, everybody, please have a seat.

My fellow Americans—[laughter]—mahalo! [Laughter] It is wonderful to be here at the White House Correspondents' dinner. What a week. As some of you heard, the State of Hawaii released my official, long-form birth certificate.

Hopefully, this puts all doubts to rest. But just in case there are any lingering questions, tonight I'm prepared to go a step further. Tonight, for the first time, I am releasing my official birth video. [Laughter]

Now, I warn you. [Laughter] No one has seen this footage in 50 years, not even me. But let's take a look.

[At this point, a video featuring clips of Disney's "The Lion King" was shown.]

Oh, well. Back to square one. I want to make clear to the FOX News table: That was a joke. [Laughter] That was not my real birth video. That was a children's cartoon. Call Disney if you don't believe me. [Laughter] They have the original long-form version.

Anyway, it's good to be back with so many esteemed guests: celebrities, Senators, journalists, essential Government employees—[laughter]—nonessential Government employees. You know who you are. [Laughter]

I am very much looking forward to hearing Seth Meyers tonight. He's a young, fresh face

who can do no wrong in the eyes of his fans. Seth, enjoy it while it lasts. [Laughter]

Yes, I think it is fair to say that when it comes to my Presidency, the honeymoon is over. [Laughter] For example, some people now suggest that I'm too professorial. And I'd like to address that head on, by assigning all of you some reading that will help you draw your own conclusions. [Laughter] Others say that I'm arrogant. But I've found a really great self-help tool for this: my poll numbers.

I've even let down my key core constituency: movie stars. Just the other day, Matt Damon—I love Matt Damon, love the guy—Matt Damon said he was disappointed in my performance. Well, Matt, I just saw "The Adjustment Bureau," so—[laughter]—right back at you, buddy. [Laughter]

Of course, there's someone who I can always count on for support, my wonderful wife Michelle. We made a terrific team at the Easter egg roll this week. I'd give out bags of candy to the kids, and she'd snatch them right back out of their little hands—[laughter]—snatched them. [Laughter]

And where is the National Public Radio table? [Applause] You guys are still here? [Laughter] That's good. I couldn't remember where we landed on that. [Laughter] Now, I know you were a little tense when the GOP tried to cut your funding, but personally, I was